



VIDEO DESCRIPTION

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NTSB Accident Number: CEN17FA127
Video Title: Witness cell phone video
Date and Timeframe: March 14, 2017 / Length 3:06
Described by: NTSB IIC – Lindberg

Description:

A witness provided a cell phone video of the events leading to the accident and the entire accident sequence. The video revealed that the pilot was attempting to attach the needle's forward hook to the tower structure when the accident occurred. The pilot attempted 2 times to hook the needle to the tower and was unsuccessful each time. Before the third attempt the helicopter wobbled several times. On the third attempt, the helicopter flew backward until the needle impacted the tower. The helicopter continued a backward motion, pitched up, then descended with the tailboom pointed at the ground. The center loop of the needle, which the grappling hook was attached to, separated from the needle and was thrown to the south (figure 2). While still airborne, the helicopter made a 180° clockwise rotation with the long line still attached. The rotation stopped as the helicopter faced north then rolled left about 80°. The long line became entangled with the main rotor blades, then the blades impacted the top of the cabin and the tailboom. The tailboom separated about mid span, both the tailboom and the rest of the helicopter and impacted the ground.

-----End of video-----

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